## What is claimed is:

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- A photodetector packaging system, comprising:

   an insulating substrate with a shoulder

   section; and
- a wire bond for coupling the photodetector to the insulating substrate at the shoulder section.
  - 2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising: optical fiber that directs incident light directly to the photodetector.
- 3. A method for packaging a photodetector, comprising:

mounting the photodetector on a insulating substrate with a shoulder section; and

coupling the photodetector to the insulating substrate shoulder section with a wire bond.

- 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein the photodetector is mounted on the insulating substrate such that the photodetector directly receives incident light from an optical fiber.
- 5. A system for packaging photodetectors, comprising:

an insulating substrate with conducting vias; and

a wire bond that couples the photodetector to 25 the insulating substrate at the conducting vias.

- 6. The system of Claim 5, further comprising:

  conducting tabs coupled to the conducting vias.
- 7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the metal tabs are coupled to a transimpedance amplifier by a wire bond.

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- 8. The system of Claim 7, wherein the transimpedance amplifier is coupled to a limiting amplifier by a wire bond.
- 9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the limiting amplifier is coupled to electrical outputs.
- 10. A method for packaging a photodetector, comprising:

coupling the photodetector to a insulating substrate using conducting vias.

- 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the photodetector is coupled to the insulating substrate by a wire bond.
- 12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

  coupling the insulating substrate at the

  conducting vias to metal tabs.
  - 13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:

    coupling the metal tab to a transimpedance amplifier.
- 25 14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

coupling the transimpedance amplifier to a limiting amplifier.